From: Randy Prakken

To: Microsoft ATR

Date: 12/9/01 11:08pm

Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

The proposed Microsoft settlement does not properly address the most fundamental problem: The authors of Microsoft Office have immediate access to the developers of Microsoft Windows. Making the source code 'available' to other companies is in no sense equivalent. The authors of Office can simply walk to another building, spend 15 minutes talking, and thereby obtain man-months or even man-years of advantage over any other company, including those with access to their source code under the proposed agreement.

The only reasonable remedy is, at a minimum, to split MS into two companies, one of which does Office and one of which does everything else.

There are, however, a number of other issues which have not been addressed in any manner by the DOJ remedies. For example, Microsoft Internet Explorer and Internet Information Server ignore Internet standards in manners which subtly favor all-Microsoft solutions. These 'bugs' both take advantage of and substantially contribute to Microsoft's monopoly position.

Microsoft takes advantage of its monopoly in a host of manners which cost all other software companies a substantial amount of money. Customers for those products, both consumers and companies, of course, pay the ultimate cost.

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